



# Let's Talk About Sex Work

## *Resource Guide*

A Companion Document to  
Let's Talk About Sex Work:  
Report of the REAL working group  
for Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk,  
Assessing the Needs of  
Sex Workers in Our Community

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We want to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we live and work is First Nations' territory. The city of Brantford and surrounding area lies on the lands of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, and the Neutral. This land acknowledgment, while symbolic, is not enough; it does not support Indigenous communities and struggles in real ways. As employees of the social service sector, as educators, and as individuals who benefit from the occupation of this land, we have a responsibility to continuously frame our work through a de-colonial lens, to constantly educate ourselves, and to build reciprocal relationships that are rooted in the values and histories of Indigenous communities. We are all treaty members, and thus must strive to act in Solidarity with Indigenous folks and center their voices.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, and foremost, REAL wishes to thank the sex workers in Brantford, Brant, Haldimand, and Norfolk who responded to the research and took the time to share their stories and insights. Your contributions to *Let's Talk About Sex Work: Report of the REAL working group for Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, Assessing the Needs of Sex Workers in Our Community* have been incredible. It is our hope that your contributions to this research will help to begin a much-needed conversation in our community, to destigmatize sex work, and to improve the situation for others. This resource is one small step in that direction. We thank you so much for your participation – this work would not have been possible without you.

Thank you to Dr. Stacey Hannem who authored the report. We know that partnering with community agencies can be a real challenge and we haven't made it any easier..... Thank you so much for being prepared to take us on this adventure and for being so responsive to the 100,000 things that we have sprung on you at the eleventh hour and for taking the time and energy to integrate our perspectives. Your passion, insight and analysis have been the guiding lights for this project. Our communities are better because you are here.

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REAL (formerly STREET) only exists because of the contributions of many local service agencies who have dedicated time and resources and people to raising awareness about sex work in our community and are committed to working as allies with local sex workers; Sexual Assault Centre of Brant, Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services, St. Leonard's Society, Brant County Health Unit, Brant Community healthcare System; Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Program, Haldimand Norfolk Women's Services, Ganqhkwasrà Family Assault Support Services, Grand River Community Health Centre, the AIDS Network, and the Brant office of Legal Aid Ontario have all been leading partners and assisted in promoting this research.

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Christina Bodine, Joanna Brant and Sarah Stevens (on behalf of the REAL Working Group for Brantford, Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, Accessing the Needs of Sex Work in Our Community)

**This Resource Package is bought to you by REAL and has been designed as a practical guide to accompany the research document *Let's Talk About Sex Work: Report of the REAL working group for Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, Assessing the Needs of Sex Workers in Our Community*. It is based upon the report recommendations and is intended to be a beginning point for social service agency workers who want to provide effective support for sex workers.**

**About REAL:** REAL (Resources Education and Advocacy Locally for Sex Work) is the new name for the community collaborative that began in 2005 as The STREET (Sex Trade Resources Education and Empowerment Team). The committee originally met to address service gaps that sex workers were experiencing in Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, New Credit and Six Nations of the Grand River including health and safety concerns. STREET also provided education for the community, specialized training to individual agencies as requested, written materials for doctors, hospitals, police and social service agencies, and outreach to sex workers. In 2014 Sarah Stevens from Nova Vita Domestic Violence Prevention Services successfully applied for an Ontario Trillium Foundation funded research grant, in collaboration with Wilfrid Laurier University and the Sexual Assault Centre of Brant. *Let's Talk About Sex Work: Report of the REAL working group for Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, Assessing the Needs of Sex Workers in Our Community* identified areas in which the communities of Brantford, Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, could do a better job of being inclusive and providing respectful and appropriate services to sex workers. It was also intended to raise awareness among local social and health service providers' concerns and perspectives. One recommendation that came forward was in reference to the name change as it was identified by participants that The STREET acronym was confusing and not inclusive as the committee advocates for all people doing sex work and not only for street-level sex workers.

**REAL's Mission:** To create a forum whereby community members and service providers can provide outreach, resources, and information to individuals involved in sex work *within the regions of Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, New Credit and Six Nations of the Grand River*. Primary goals include increasing the safety of sex workers and the knowledge of service providers regarding sex work. REAL is committed to ensuring that all sex workers who access local agencies are treated with dignity and respect and are offered non-judgmental, supportive, and inclusive services.

**REAL's Objectives:**

- Increasing the safety of sex workers by providing information, education, advocacy, and resources
- Increasing general awareness and sensitivity to issues related to sex work through community education, written resources, and consultation
- Providing education and consultation to service providers to increase the availability of non-judgmental, supportive, and inclusive services
- Advocating for and advancing the human and labour rights of sex workers
- Linking and referring individuals involved in sex work to appropriate services and resources

**Membership in REAL** can be applied for by any agency providing services in Brantford, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Six Nations of the Grand River, and New Credit that may potentially provide direct services to sex workers. Previous or current sex workers are also encouraged to join REAL.

**Recommendations** from Let's Talk About Sex Work: Report of the REAL Working Group for Brantford, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Accessing the Needs of Sex Work in Our Community:

1. Community social service and healthcare providers should respect individual's terms of self-identification; do not label clients involved in sex work as victims, or make assumptions of coercion or exploitation where the individual does not experience it.
2. Be open to individuals' realities; listen carefully to sex workers' descriptions of their needs or concerns; do not assume that sex work is the primary issue for which they need assistance.
3. Services must never be contingent on an expectation of leaving the industry; offer choices and services in a non-judgemental way that respects individuals' right to choose to do sex work. Do not assume that leaving sex work is or should be the individual's goal in seeking assistance.
4. Share accurate and up-to-date information about sex workers' legal rights whenever possible. This requires that service providers themselves are educated about the laws and have access to plain-language descriptions of the laws. An excellent resource is freely available from Stella (Montreal) at: <http://chezstella.org/en/infosheets-laws-around-sex-work/>
5. The City of Brantford and the town of Simcoe, with REAL, should work towards the development of drop-in centres for sex workers and street-involved women. These centres should be easily accessible, located in a safe space that would not make women vulnerable to identification (and stigmatization), welcoming and free of judgement with respect to sex work and sex workers. The centres should offer practical assistance, a safe space to go, and non-judgemental peer-based support. Alternatively, a mobile

camper van unit could be utilized to offer the same services in the counties on a rotating basis.

6. Both in-patient and out-patient drug rehabilitation services should be more widely available in our region. Sex workers should be able to access addictions counsellors who understand the dynamics of the sex industry's intersections with drugs and who do not stereotype or stigmatize sex workers who are users.
7. Sex work should not be constructed as an automatic risk factor in child protection and custody cases. The literature demonstrates that many sex workers are effective parents; custody decisions should be made on the basis of actual danger, rather than stereotypes of risk.
8. As a matter of standard practice, police should not lay charges for drugs or other offences on individuals who call for assistance or to report a sexual or physical assault.
9. Increase the accessibility of sexual health services and other community services through longer operating hours and telephone coverage. Do not assume that all clients can or will leave messages and can be called back.
10. Agencies should ensure that the confidentiality of all social and health services is reiterated to clients as a matter of standard practice, and respected (within the legal limits of confidentiality).
11. Work towards the universal availability of extended healthcare services in BHN, including dental and vision care, and prescription drug coverage.

## **MYTHS AND FACTS Lara Purvis, Emily Symons, Chris Bruckert and Fred Chabot**

**MYTH:** All sex workers are the same and share the same experiences.

**FACT:** Everybody's circumstances are unique. It is crucial to recognize that we have many communities we belong to and that this informs our experiences, the support we get, how criminalized we may be, and what resources we are able to access. Some of us refer to ourselves as 'sex workers' while some of us do not. Our experiences in the sex industry vary greatly. For some of us, sex work is just a job. For others it may include violence, coercion, survival, getting by, empowerment, a source of pride, and everything in between.

**MYTH:** Violence is part of the job.

**FACT:** We refuse to accept that violence is a part of our job. While Canadian sex workers experience disproportionately high levels of violence, this is not inherent to our work. Vulnerability to violence can be attributed to criminalization and stigma. The criminal laws in Canada inhibit sex workers' ability to work in safety. For example, many of us do not feel comfortable reporting violence against us to the police because we fear that drawing attention to ourselves may result in a criminal charge. The stigmatized nature of sex work means that violence against us is often not taken seriously. Sex workers are vulnerable to predators who target us. We can reduce violence against sex workers by challenging stigma and decriminalizing sex work.

**MYTH:** Sex workers are victims who need to be saved.

**FACT:** People often regard sex workers as victims, despite the fact that many current and former sex workers consider themselves to be nothing of the sort. Not only does this reinforce the notion that we are incapable of making and taking responsibility for our own decisions, it also invisibilizes the context in which our choices are made. Such a paternalistic view denies the agency of sex workers. When people are doing sex work when they'd rather not be, the problem is the lack of options, not sex work itself. Painting sex workers as victims is detrimental to improving our working conditions and it furthers stigma and marginalization. We demand rights, not rescue.

**MYTH:** All sex workers are survivors of childhood sexual abuse and sexual assault.

**FACT:** One in three women, and one in six men will experience sexual assault at some point in their lifetime, often before age 16. Like many people, some sex workers have experiences of sexual violence. The majority of people who experience sexual abuse or assault do not become sex workers. Sex workers often express frustration when service providers draw links to past or current experiences and sexual violence. We are the experts of our own lives, and if there is a connection, that is up to us to define.

**MYTH:** Sex workers are drug addicts.

**FACT:** Relationships to drugs vary with each individual. Some sex workers use drugs occasionally, some may identify as being dependent, and others choose to abstain completely. Some sex workers will tell you that there is no correlation between their work and drug use and that if they stop using, they will continue their work. The Toolbox: What Works for Sex Workers 5 Others will tell you that they engage in sex work primarily to buy drugs and if they cease using, they will choose to no longer do sex work. For those of us who use drugs, the criminalization of our work restricts our access to resources and harm reduction services. For example, most needle exchange programs are located in areas that are inaccessible to sex workers who are given boundary restrictions when they get arrested.

**MYTH:** Sex work is degrading.

**FACT:** Degrading is a relative concept. Let us name our own experiences; we are the experts of our own lives. As artist and sex worker Sadie Lune says, “Stop punishing me, just because you may not be able to imagine being me.”

**MYTH:** Sex work is easy money.

**FACT:** Different aspects of sex work demand different skills including interpersonal skills, business management skills, and technical skills. These skills are often not recognized. Sex work can also pose numerous challenges in terms of personal relationships, financial instability, negotiating stigma, and dealing with the stress of possible criminal charges. The lack of recognition afforded to the work and the skills we use and develop in the course of our work is a challenge if/when we transition into another line of work.

**MYTH:** Sex workers lack the education and skills for other job opportunities.

**FACT:** Sex workers come from all socio-demographic backgrounds. Many sex workers choose to work in the sex industry because it offers a relatively high level of income while affording us a flexible schedule. Regardless of a person's reasons for doing sex work, we are worthy of the same human and labour rights as everyone else.

**MYTH:** Street-based sex workers want to leave the street.

**FACT:** Research shows that working indoors is safer and some of the most marginalized sex workers work on the street because they do not have access to the Internet, a secure home, or a telephone that would allow them to work indoors. That said, not all street-based sex workers are hyper-disadvantaged; some of us prefer the flexibility, autonomy, and unstructured nature of this sector.

**MYTH:** Arresting sex workers will get us out of the industry and/or connect us with resources.

**FACT:** Arresting sex workers creates bad relationships with police and others involved. A sex worker with a criminal record may have difficulty securing different employment, should they choose to transition into another line of work. Additionally, jail time disconnects us from our community, our support networks, and social services, and it may also threaten our housing.

**MYTH:** Sex workers are responsible for the spread of HIV and other STIs.

**FACT:** Sex workers use safer sex supplies such as condoms at a higher rate than the general population. Criminalization increases our vulnerability to HIV and other STIs. For example, when sex workers are given drug and paraphernalia conditions upon arrest they can be charged for carrying clean needles or other harm reduction equipment. When condoms are unofficially used as evidence of sex work, there is a 6 POWER disincentive to carrying barrier protection. In order to maximize the health of sex workers as well as the general population, we must support harm reduction and decriminalization.

**MYTH:** The clients of sex workers hold negative attitudes towards women.

**FACT:** Sex work does not happen in a vacuum where misogyny and sexism automatically disappear. That said, a client is someone who seeks out a sex worker for any number of reasons including adventure, loneliness, sexual insecurity, companionship, kink play, or gender/sexual orientation exploration. Many sex workers have meaningful relationships with clients. Predators may or may not present themselves as clients but their intention is to inflict harm—not to purchase a service. They may seek out sex workers specifically because they perceive us to be easy targets due to criminalization and stigma; we are less likely to report an assault to the police, and if we do, we are less likely to be taken seriously.

**MYTH:** Sex workers suffer from low self-esteem.

**FACT:** Engaging in sex work is not an inherent barrier to a healthy self-esteem. Like any other occupational category, sex workers have varying levels of self-esteem. For some sex workers, the ability to be financially compensated for sexual services is a source of pride, while others find it challenging to maintain a healthy sense of selfworth in the face of the rejection and judgment we experience because of our work.

**MYTH:** Targeting and arresting clients will help fight violence and exploitation.

**FACT:** Clients are already criminalized under the Criminal Code of Canada. When clients are targeted and arrested, sex workers are further marginalized. For example, many of us who work indoors rely on information given by our clients such as their names, phone numbers, or a reference provided by another sex worker in order to increase our safety. When clients are targeted by the criminal justice system, it is challenging to ask for and access that information. Those of us who work on the street protect ourselves by working in well-lit and well-populated areas, working with others, and taking time to assess clients before getting into their vehicle. When clients are targeted by the legal system, they are less likely to access the services of sex workers who implement these safety strategies as it may increase their visibility and likelihood of being arrested.

**MYTH:** Fighting sex work will help to reduce human trafficking.

**FACT:** Many people confuse human trafficking with sex work. Policy makers, police services, and media sometimes use the two terms interchangeably. Sex work involves the consensual exchange of sexual labour for money or other goods. Human trafficking involves coerced or forced labour that may or may not involve sex. Even though trafficking into non-sex industry sectors arguably accounts for a bigger proportion of trafficking activity worldwide, anti-trafficking laws and policies have focused on the sex industry. Groups who have anti-prostitution or anti-immigration agendas sometimes use the umbrella of 'human trafficking' to garner support, ignoring the realities of sex work. Anti-trafficking laws and policies often harm sex workers and lead to the deportation of migrant sex workers. Clients and sex workers may be aware of instances of human trafficking and can be key allies. In order to fight human trafficking, we need to work with sex workers and their clients, not against them. The Toolbox: What Works for Sex Workers 7

**MYTH:** Sex workers are under the control of pimps.

**FACT:** The majority of sex workers, including street-based workers, work independently. Research has shown that there is a vast diversity of arrangements sex workers may have with third parties. Some choose to associate with colleagues to share resources, such as a workplace. Others prefer working for employers who can offer valuable services including equipment, protection, health and safety measures, contacts, advertisement, a workplace, and information. Some sex workers who work independently choose to hire third parties such as drivers, security, and photographers. However, in a criminalized and invisible industry, we lack the protections afforded to other workers in Canada such as the Labour Code. The procuring law criminalizes a wide range of our personal, business, romantic and sexual relationships and does little to protect us against violence and exploitation.

To view the complete toolkit please visit POWER's website [http://www.powerottawa.ca/POWER\\_Report\\_TheToolbox.pdf](http://www.powerottawa.ca/POWER_Report_TheToolbox.pdf)

## **Sex Work Safety Tips**

**See below for some safety tips that have worked for some people doing sex work. Please note that these are not intended to make up a comprehensive safety plan. They are just ideas. Use the ones that make sense to you and discard the others. Know that some may be effective in one situation but not helpful at all in another situation. Please remember that if you experience violence on the job, it is not your fault and it is not because you didn't follow safety tips.**

### **Trust Your Gut**

Listen to your instincts, if it doesn't feel right it probably isn't. Appearances can be deceiving. Just because someone looks "ok" or "respectable" doesn't mean they are.

Sometimes your "intuition" tells you that something about a situation is "off" but you can't put your finger on what it is. It's important to trust your own sense of things and allow yourself space to figure out the details of why you feel that way, if you can.

### **Booking and Accepting Work**

If you take bookings over the phone, get their number and record it somewhere safe. Is it a landline or a mobile number? Is it listed on one of the escort safety websites?

If you use the internet, is the booking made from an account you need a credit card for, or is it a free one where they could use any made up details? Does the website promise anonymity for users?

When talking to a client be assertive and confident.

Check the address. If the client says they are taking you to one place but pulls up to another, this may not be the only thing that they are lying about.

Get your money upfront. If you have other money with you, stash the payment somewhere else if the client is watching you. This way if you get robbed it is less likely the client will take all of your money.

Do not promise a service that you are not comfortable with. Be honest upfront about your limits and services you do not provide. Although you always have the right to say “no” to a client they may not respect this once you are alone. Before you go somewhere private, negotiate price, services, safe sex, a safe location and payment up front.

Some sex workers prefer to tell their clients that they are transgendered up front because they feel less at risk of violence than if it comes out later.

## **Getting Ready for Work**

Try to avoid wearing necklaces, scarves or anything around your neck that could be used to strangle you with.

Weigh out the pros and cons of your footwear choices. Some workers wear shoes that they can move quickly in, or that they can slip off easily. Try not to wear any clothing that may slow you down if you need to run.

Carry a cell phone and make sure it is fully charged when you go out. Program emergency numbers into your phone ie. friends, crisis lines, police. You can program it to dial a phone number by pressing only one button. You can also download apps that track your location or you can activate location services.

Have cash when you go out in case you don't make any money, or get dumped by a client and you need to pay for a taxi.

Tell a friend or co-worker when you are going out to work and when you expect to be back.

Call yourself and leave a message with a description of the client's car or text the license plate number to a friend.

Have a code word to use with someone you trust. If you are in trouble, call the person and say the code word casually to let them know you need help.

Work with friends if possible. Consider casually telling a client you have been seen leaving in their car and are expected back at a certain time.

Share information with other sex workers. If you have had a bad experience with a client, pass the details on to workers and any organizations that you trust that have a direct connection to bad dating reporting.

## **On the Job**

Choose your environment if possible. When in a car or in a room, be aware of the exit at all times and do not let the customer block your access to it. If possible, position yourself so you are closer to the exit than your client.

Survey your environment and plan your exits. Notice what kinds of locks are on the doors and consider how you would open them.

Put your purse where you can find it without looking (eg. on the floor between your feet).

Try to avoid accepting food or drink from clients unless they're prepackaged and still in their wrapper. Make sure your client is happy to take the same food and drink.

Decide whether you feel safe taking drugs from a client or using drugs with them. In addition, some sex workers say they prefer to be sober and not using drugs when they work, so that their instincts and judgement are not impaired.

What are your feelings about being videoed? If this is "hard no" for you, keep an eye open for recording devices that are used without your consent, such as an open laptop with a webcam directed at the bed.

Decide if you are comfortable doing sex work for more than one client at once. If you agree to work with only one person, and there are more at the destination or others show up, you might decide it is time to get out of there!

Watch the client. Look for warning signs that things may become unsafe like aggressive body language or a sudden switch in mood.

Sometimes sex workers say they make a lot of noise or "make a scene" to attract the attention of others if they find themselves in an unsafe situation. At other times people try to get out unnoticed or with as little commotion as possible. If you have to get away, run AGAINST traffic, not with it.

If you decide to report a situation to the police and need advocacy, consider getting in touch with an agency who will help

## **Tips for Making Referrals**

There are many things to consider when making referrals. It is important as service providers to check assumptions about what is actually needed and see the client as a whole person rather than focus on just their involvement in sex work. Do not assume a client automatically wants or needs sex work specific services, particularly services that focus on exiting. Listen openly and carefully and recognize that appropriate referrals may or may not be related to sex work.

Secondary considerations relate to the barriers experienced by some individuals in sex work. When making referrals the following are possible questions to ask to help facilitate meaningful connections with other agencies and identify some of the barriers:

Do you require photo ID?

Do you require a Health Card?

Do you require an address, if so, what proof do you need?

Do you need to provide proof of immigration status?

Can a client text rather than phone?

What are your hours of operation? Do you have evening hours?

Do you provide any assistance with transportation?

Are you on a main bus route?

Do you offer childcare while the client is accessing service?

Do you provide any anonymous services?

Do you provide walk in appointments or do they need to be scheduled before hand?

Do you have a waitlist? If so, how long is it and can the client jump ahead if there is a crisis situation?

What is your policy about clients who use drugs and/or alcohol? Do clients need to wait a certain amount of time after using before they can attend your service?

Brant and Haldimand/Norfolk Counties have useful referral guides to utilize as service providers. *The Refrigerator Door* (Brantford and Brant County) and *A Woman's Guide for Help* (Haldimand/Norfolk Counties) provide thorough lists and descriptions of services and support in our communities. Both referral guides are available through numerous community agencies, such as the Sexual Assault Centre of Brant and Haldimand Norfolk Women's Services.

## Sex Work and the Law in Canada

As service providers it is important to understand the legal context in which our clients do their work. Historically prostitution has not been a criminal act in Canada but most activities surrounding it were and still are illegal making it difficult to engage in sex work without breaking any laws. It is significant to note that the new laws passed in 2014 have now made it a criminal offense to purchase sex for the first time in Canada.

Stella in Montreal offers PDF print outs on their website that breakdown the laws in plain language and help to explain exactly how they affect individuals involved in sex work. The print outs breakdown the laws into helpful categories. Below is a summary of these handouts. This is not intended to be used as legal advice but just a guideline for understanding how the laws work.

- The act of selling one's own sexual services is not illegal in Canada. Nor is it illegal for sex workers to communicate in public for the purpose of *selling* sexual services UNLESS it is next to a daycare centre, a school ground or a playground. It is important to note that the law does not define what "next to" means, nor defines what constitutes the above three locations.
- It is, however, illegal for a client of sex work to communicate for the purpose of *purchasing* sexual services anywhere- public OR private. The actual act of purchasing sexual services is also illegal.
- Sex workers are allowed to advertise their own sexual services, whether it is on the internet, newspaper or another method. It is illegal for another person or business to advertise someone else's sexual services though, such as a newspaper owner or website host. This means that individuals in sex work can also not advertise their colleagues' services legally.

- People who work with or for sex workers are considered third parties. This can be a driver, security, someone who books their appointments, rents out a room etc. These individuals can potentially be charged under a few different laws.
- Third parties can be criminalized for gaining “material benefits from sexual services”, which means to benefit financially from someone else’s sexual labour. This is unless they can prove that the “material benefit” does not exceed the value of the service they provide (ie. that it is not an exploitative relationship between the sex worker and the third party).
- Third parties can also be criminalized under the procuring law, which criminalizes any individual who “procures a person to offer or provide sexual services for consideration” or “recruits, holds, conceals, or harbours a person who offers or provides sexual services, or exercises control or direction over the movements of that person.” Although it is intended to protect sex workers from exploitative or coercive situations, this wide-ranging law can also be used to criminalize consensual third-party arrangements, as when agencies or booking agents direct a sex worker’s movements by hiring a cab or transportation to take her to an appointment.
- Indoor sex work is technically legal in Canada; however clients are still committing a criminal offense by purchasing sexual services. Owners of indoor establishments, considered a third party, can also be committed of a crime for either financially benefiting from the sex worker’s labour or under the procuring law.
- Romantic partners and roommates of a sex worker are somewhat protected from potentially being charged for

financially benefiting from their work. There is an “exception” in the law that exempts individuals who are in a “legitimate living arrangement” with a sex worker and will, by default, benefit from their income.

- It is important to note, however, that “legitimate living arrangement” has not been defined. It also gets blurry if the partner or roommate works as a third party in the sex industry because individuals who work in a “commercial enterprise that offers sexual services for consideration” (ie for money, goods etc.) are not exempt. Therefore, if the partner of a sex worker also works in the sex industry, for example a driver or security guard, they could potentially still be charged for “receiving material benefit”.
- Children of sex workers are exempt from being criminalized for “receiving material benefit” as well as dependants 18 years or older that legally are still under their care.

For more information about the laws go to:

<http://chezstella.org/en/infosheets-laws-around-sex-work/>

## **Additional Resources**

There are numerous resources that cover a broad range of topics related to sex work. More learning is available through the following:

**Stella** is a sex worker rights group in Montreal. Their website is geared mostly to those in sex work but has helpful resources for services providers as well. It includes PDF print outs simplifying each of the new laws included in Bill C-36, including advertising, clients, communication and third parties.

[www.chezstella.org/en](http://www.chezstella.org/en)

**Maggie's** is a sex worker rights group in Toronto. The organization is run for and by local sex workers. The website includes resources for sex workers, a library of articles and links to other websites. Maggie's also has physical space for drop in groups.

[www.maggiestoronto.ca](http://www.maggiestoronto.ca)

**Butterfly: the Asian and Migrant Sex Worker Network** is a Toronto based agency that offers support to Asian and migrant sex workers. They provide a 24/7 hotline (available in English, Mandarin and Cantonese) and outreach including legal, health and crisis support.

<http://www.butterflysw.org/>

**The Pivot Legal Society** is a B.C. based organization with the mandate is to use the law to address the root causes of poverty and social exclusion. It has numerous legal articles on the law and sex work.

[www.pivotlegal.org/sex\\_workers\\_rights](http://www.pivotlegal.org/sex_workers_rights)

**POWER** is an Ottawa based non-profit organization that is run by and for sex workers. It includes resources for sex workers, news articles and many helpful links to other areas of interest.

[www.powerottawa.ca](http://www.powerottawa.ca)

**Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP)** is an international organization. Its purpose is to facilitate networking between advocates of sex worker rights at a global and regional level.

[www.nswp.org](http://www.nswp.org)

**Sex Workers without Borders** is based out of the United States and describes itself as a “grassroots educational organization.” Their focus is on raising awareness of issues pertaining to sex work and providing speakers to present on numerous topics. The website includes helpful information on harm reduction and blogs discussing sex worker rights.

[www.sexworkerswithoutborders.org](http://www.sexworkerswithoutborders.org)

**SCOT-PEP** is a campaigning and lobbying group in Scotland that advocates for sex worker rights. The website has helpful resources for sex workers on safety planning and sexual health (including pregnancy and parenthood). It also has numerous readings on issues pertaining to sex work.

<http://www.scot-pep.org.uk/>

